AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-10. (Canceled).

11. (New) A device for forming a signature, comprising:

a predefined number of shift registers having a predefined number of bit positions, to which input data to be tested is applied bit-by-bit and in parallel as successive data words and which serially shift the input data forward in a predefined cycle, a signature being formed in the shift registers after a predefined number of data words and cycles; and

a code generator which generates at least one additional bit position in at least one additional shift register from each data word in the signature.

12. (New) The device according to claim 11, wherein the individual shift registers are connected by antivalence points, and the individual bits of the data words at the antivalence points, as well as the at least one additional bit position of the code generator, are inserted to form the signature.

13. (New) The device according to claim 11, wherein the individual shift registers are connected by equivalence points, and the individual bits of the data words, as well as the at least one additional bit position of the code generator, are inserted at the equivalence points to form the signature.

14. (New) The device according to claim 11, wherein the code generator implements an ECC code and inputs a number of bit positions corresponding to the ECC code being used into a corresponding number of additional shift registers to form the signature.

15. (New) The device according to claim 11, wherein the code generator forms a parity bit and inputs it in an additional shift register.

16. (New) The device according to claim 14, wherein the code generator implements a Hamming code.

17. (New) The device according to claim 14, wherein the code generator implements a Berger code.

18. (New) The device according to claim 14, wherein the code generator implements a Bose-Lin code.

19. (New) The device according to claim 14, wherein the code generator implements a generic code generator table.

20. (New) A method for forming a signature, comprising:

providing a predefined number of shift registers having a predefined number of bit positions, to which input data to be tested is applied bit-by-bit and in parallel as successive data words and which serially shift the input data forward in a predefined cycle, a signature being formed in the shift registers after a predefined number of data words and cycles; and

providing a code generator which generates at least one additional bit position in at least one additional shift register from each data word in the signature.